THIS PLACE HAS BEEN VERY CROWDED LATELY.
AUTUMN TIME.
FOR SOME REASON ...
OPEN
HEY, GUYS!
I DON'T MIND CROWDED PLACES.
BUT NOW IT'S HARD FOR ME TO COME OUT.
THEY'RE PRACTICING FOR *HEALTH AND SPORTS DAY ON THE FIELD RIGHT NOW. LET'S GO AND WATCH!
MY NAME IS MAKI. I LIVE INSIDE THIS FRAME.

HEALTH AND SPORTS DAY (体育の日 TAIIKU NO HI), ALSO KNOWN AS HEALTH-SPORTS DAY OR SPORTS DAY, IS A NATIONAL HOLIDAY IN JAPAN HELD ANNUALLY ON THE SECOND MONDAY IN OCTOBER. IT COMMEMORATES THE OPENING OF THE 1964 SUMMER OLYMPICS HELD IN TOKYO, AND EXISTS TO PROMOTE SPORTS AND AN ACTIVE LIFESTYLE
AS HEALTH AND SPORTS DAY IS A DAY TO PROMOTE SPORTS AND PHYSICAL AND MENTAL HEALTH, MANY--CITATION NEEDED?-- SCHOOLS AND BUSINESSES CHOOSE THIS DAY TO HOLD THEIR ANNUAL FIELD DAY (運動会 UNDŌ-KAI?), OR SPORTS DAY. THIS TYPICALLY CONSISTS OF A RANGE OF PHYSICAL EVENTS RANGING FROM MORE TRADITIONAL TRACK-AND-FIELD EVENTS SUCH AS THE 100 METRES OR 4 X 100 METRES RELAY TO MORE UNCOMMON EVENTS SUCH AS THE TUG OF WAR AND THE MOCK CAVALRY BATTLE (騎馬戦 KIBA-SEN?). (TAKEN FROM WIKIPEDIA)

NOISE
THAT HANDSOME GUY, SATO, IS ALSO THERE!
REALLY?
LET'S GO!
CLOSE
SILENT
HUH?
PRACTICING FOR SPORT COMPETITIONS? SOUNDS INTERESTING.
I WILL JUST WATCH FROM HERE.
EH?!
LOOKS LIKE SOMEONE GOT HURT.
TOUCH
MY REAL FORM IS A SECRET~

OCTOBER - LIVING SPIRIT

SENSEI, WILL AKI BE OKAY FOR THE RACE?
INFIRMARY
HMM, YOU NEED TO GO TO THE HOSPITAL.
...
SHE'S THE BEST 100 METERS RUNNER AMONG THE GIRLS!
...
I DON'T THINK HER LEG WILL HEAL IN TIME FOR THE RACE.
I'M SORRY.

YEAH, BUT MIYAKO SEEMS HAPPY WITH THAT.
POOR AKI. SHE HAVE TO DROP OUT OF THE RACE.
WHAT?! AFTER ALL THAT PRACTICE THAT I DID!
OPEN
SSH, BE QUIET!
OF COURSE SHE IS. THEY'RE RIVALS AFTER ALL.
DAMN IT!
AKI TAKAI
FIRST, YOU CUT A PIECE OF PAPER INTO THE SHAPE OF A PERSON. THEN YOU WRITE A NAME ON IT.
HEY ...
HEY AKI!
THEN YOU WRAP SOME TAPE AROUND THE HURT BODY PART AND SAY "GET WELL SOON".
HERE, I MADE ONE FOR YOU
YOU KNOW, THERE'S A CHARM FOR HEALING WOUNDS

...
MAYBE IT'S MORE THAN "JUST A PAPER CHARM".
I KNOW IT'S JUST A PAPER CHARM, BUT PLEASE KEEP HOLD OF IT
THANKS.
HUH?!
I HAVE NO IDEA ...
WHO IS SHE ...?!
WAVE
YES... A MIRACLE ...
IF YOU BELIEVE IN SOMETHING HARD ENOUGH.
YOU CAN MAKE A MIRACLE HAPPEN.
...
BUT I FEEL LIKE I'VE SEEN HER SOMEWHERE BEFORE.

UGH. AFTER ALL THAT HARD WORK, I CAN'T COMPETE IN THE RACE. AND IF MIYAKO WINS...!
WOMEN
MIYAKO!
WELL, THE ANNOYING ONE'S DROPPED OUT OF IT ANYWAY.
YOU'LL WIN THE RACE TOMORROW FOR SURE, MIYAKO!
OPEN
LAUGH
UNLIKE SOMEONE WHO CAN'T RUN BECAUSE THEY HURT THEMSELVES.
THAT'S RIGHT, I SHOULD GO HOME EARLY TO GET SOME REST FOR TOMORROW'S EVENT.
DAMN IT!
TRUMP

I WON'T LET YOU WIN THE RACE!
MIYAKO KURATA
I WON'T LET YOU WIN, MIYAKO!
IF THIS CHARM CAN HEAL A WOUND, THEN IT SHOULD BE ABLE TO DO THE OPPOSITE!

HURT HER LEG!
MOVE
HURT IT!

SOMEONE'S VOICE?!
HURT..
WHAT...?
SHOCK
OUCH!
HURT HER...
HEART THUMP

HURT
HER
LEG
...
NOOOOOOOO!

I HEARD THAT SHE CAN'T MOVE HER LEG.
ISN'T TODAY THE HEALTH AND SPORTS DAY?
SO MIYAKO DIDN'T COME TO SCHOOL TODAY.
HURT ...
HAH, TAKE THAT!
SHE DESERVES IT.
Tokyo Adventure
IT MUST BE MY IMAGINATION...
?

HURT
...
ONNO, STOP WHISPERING STRANGE STUFF TO ME!
HUH?
WHAT'RE YOU TALKING ABOUT? I DIDN'T WHISPER ANYTHING TO YOU!
?!
BUT I HEAR IT RIGHT BEHIND ME
THEN WHO SAID IT ...?

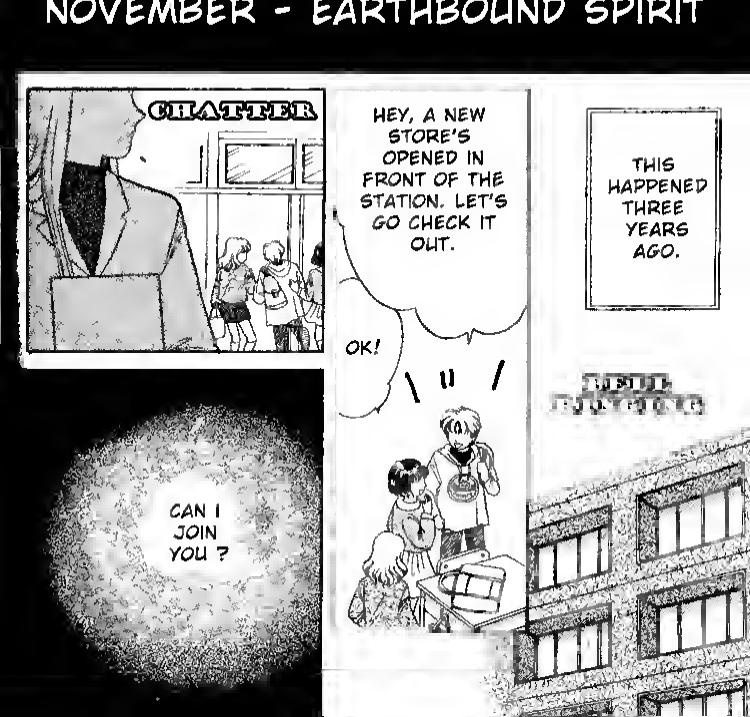
MOVE
THAT VOICE AGAIN!
HURT ...
HURT ...
HURT HER ...
SHAKE
SHAKE
SHAKE
STOP... STOP IT ...!

HURT HER ...
SHAKE
SHAKE
SHAKE
OUTSIDE THE WINDOW?
SWISH
HURT HER ...
SOMEONE MUST BE PULLING A PRANK ON ME!

THE SPIRIT WAS, UNMISTAKABLE, AKI HERSELF.
FOR DAYS HER BODY WAS COMSUMED WITH PAIN

IF YOU HOLD A STRONG GRUDGE AGAINST SOMEONE, THAT GRUDGE MAY TAKE ON YOUR FORM AND BECOME A 'LIVING SPIRIT'.
BUT REMEMBER, THAT SPIRIT WILL ALWAYS RETURN TO ITS CREATOR.
IF YOU STILL WANT TO TRY CURSING SOMEONE WITH THAT PAPER CHARM, THEN GO AHEAD~
I DARE YOU~
FUFU- I WON'T STOP YOU
LO-NE-LY ..
I AM LONELY ..

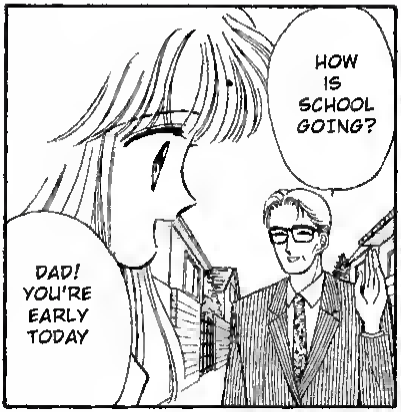
NOVEMBER - EARTHBOUND SPIRIT

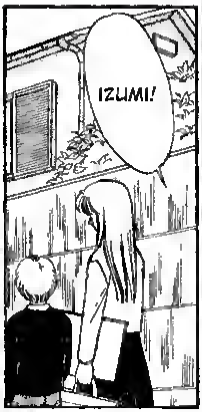


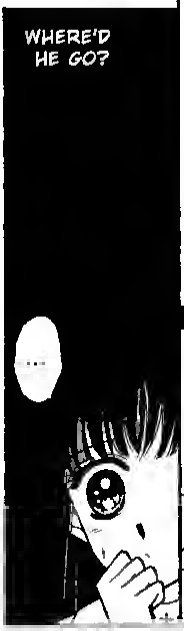
WHY CAN'T I SAY IT?
IT BEENS TWO WEEKS SINCE I CAME HERE.
BUT I HAVEN'T MADE ANY FRIENDS AT ALL.
I AM LONELY...
AS USUAL, IZUMI WENT HOME FROM THE BACK GATE.
HE LOOKS LIKE A 3RD GRADE STUDENT WHY'S HE ALONE HERE?
HEY...
WHY ARE YOU STILL HERE? IT'S EVENING ALREADY.

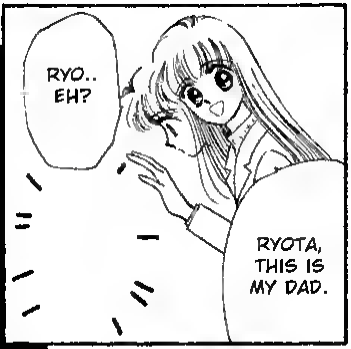
SMILE
LOOKING AROUND
WALKING
?
WHAT A STRANGE KID...
BUT HE LOOKS CUTE WITH HIS RED SHIRT.
BELL RINGING
THE NEXT DAY
IZUMI-NEE-SAN?
SO YOUR NAME IS RYOTA? I'M IZUMI.

I... DON'T HAVE ANY FRIENDS ...
WHY ARE YOU ALWAYS ALONE, RYOTA?
S-SORRY ...
... IT'S OK.
HE'S JUST LIKE ME
WHY DON'T WE GO HOME TOGETHER FROM NOW ON?
OK!

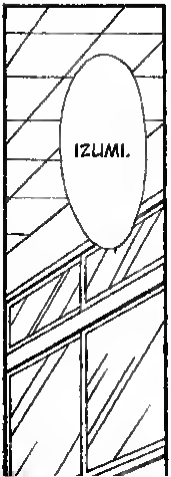

HOW IS SCHOOL GOING?
DAD! YOU'RE EARLY TODAY


IZUMI!


WHERE'D HE GO?
...


RYO.. EH?
RYOTA, THIS IS MY DAD.

WHAT'S THE MATTER, IZUMI?
RYO-TA?


IZUMI.

COUNT ME IN!
DO YOU WANT TO STUDY TOGETHER?
SORRY RYOTA, I CAN'T GO HOME WITH YOU TODAY.
OK ...
MY FRIENDS ARE WAITING FOR ME, SO I'LL SEE YOU LATER!
WALKING
LAUGHTER
HANGING OUT WITH MY CLASSMATE IS FUN. IT'S BETTER THAN BEING WITH RYOTA.

LAUGHTER
SORRY, RYOTA!
IZUMI, LET'S GO HOME TOGETHER!
PANT PANT
BELL RINGING
UGH, I'M LATE!
RUNNING

... IZUMI-NEE-SAN IS A LIAR.
HUH?!
YOU PROMISED ME THAT WE'D GO HOME TOGETHER...
RYOTA ?!
WHAT'RE YOU DOING HERE? YOU'LL BE LATE!
RYOTA... THE BELL'S RINGING ...
WHY ARE YOU LYING TO ME, NEE-SAN?
GULP
BECAUSE I HAVE MORE FUN HANGING OUT WITH MY CLASSMATE THAN WITH YOU!

YOU SHOULD FIND SOME FRIENDS FROM YOUR OWN CLASS TOO, RYOTA!
BUT NEE-SAN, YOU ARE THE ONLY ONE ...
WHAT'S HAPPENING?!
I CAN'T MOVE MY BODY!
YOU ARE THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN SEE ME, NEE-SAN.

ALL THIS TIME, I'VE BEEN ALONE.
AH, THAT'S RIGHT, NEE-SAN ...
CAR HORN
RYOTA ... YOU?!
COME WITH ME, OK ...?

BRAKE

BRAKE
WATCH OUT!
DON'T STAND IN THE MIDDLE OF ROAD LIKE THAT!
LAST YEAR A 3RD GRADE STUDENT WAS HIT BY A CAR HERE.
POOR KID... HIS SHIRT WAS STAINED RED WITH BLOOD.
A RED...
RED SHIRT...

I WAS SO CLOSE ...
NOOOOOOOOO!
NO..
SWISH
NO...
SINCE THEN, IZUMI HAS NEVER USED THE BACK GATE AGAIN.

EVEN AFTER 3 YEARS, THERE ARE STILL ACCIDENTS HAPPENING ON THAT ROAD.
IT SEEMS THAT RYOTA IS STILL LOOKING FOR A NEW FRIENDS.
SOMETIMES A SPIRIT WILL BE BOUND TO THE PLACE WHERE THEY DIED, UNABLE TO MOVE ON
THAT'S WHY A PLACE WHERE A LOT OF ACCIDENTS HAPPEN MAY BE HAUNTED BY AN EARTHBOUND SPIRIT.
SO IF YOU HAPPEN TO VISIT THAT PLACE AND HEAR A STRANGE VOICE, OR FEELS YOUR LEGS BECOMING HEAVY.

MAYBE IT'S THEM
CALLING FOR YOU ...
COME HERE ...
COME WITH ME ...

LIVING SPIRIT: IKIRYO

I HAVE SO MANY THINGS THAT I WANT TO SAY ABOUT THIS IKIRYO AND HOW THIS CHAPTER IS BRILLIANTLY PUT OUT A CONNECTION WITH IKIRYO AND USHI NO KOKU MAIRI, BUT I'M NOT SURE I CAN SAY IT WELL ENOUGH SO I WILL JUST SAY:

CURSE SOMEONE, AND TWO HOLES ARE BORN.

SUMMARY: DON'T HOLD ON GRUDGES, IT WILL COME RIGHT BACK TO YOU.

AND CREDIT FOR THIS CHAPTER IS:

PROOF-READER & QUALITY CHECKER: J

THANK YOU FOR READING MAKI NO GAKKYUU NISSHI!

AS USUAL, YOU CAN ALWAYS LEAVE A MESSAGE ON

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